

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, Claims 1-7 were pending. By the present amendment, Claim 3 has been cancelled and Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Thus, following entry of this amendment, Claims 1-2 and 4-7 will be pending.

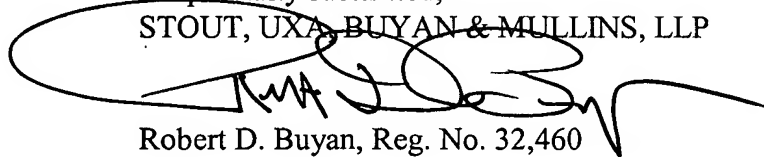
In the office action, claims 1-2 and 5-7 were rejected and claims 3 and 4 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of allowed dependent Claim 3. Claim 3 has been cancelled and Claim 4 has been amended to depend from Claim 1 instead of cancelled Claim 3. Thus, all stated grounds for rejection have been overcome and Claims 1-2 and 4-7 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel to discuss any further measures that may be taken to facilitate allowance of this application.

The Examiner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee properly deemed to be due to Deposit Account No. 50-0878.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 20, 2004.

Dated: July 20, 2004

By: 
Francine Sanders, Assistant